श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, आप एक काम करिए, इसके ऊपर विचार करके जवाब दीजिएगा।

मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खन्डूड़ी: आपने जो सुझाव दिया है, उस पर विचार कर लिया जाएगा। वर्तमान में ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: हां, मैं कह रहा हूं कि विचार करके जवाब दीजिएगा।

श्री लालू प्रसाद: कई संगठनों को दे रहे हैं और एमपी के लिए नहीं?

श्री सभापति: मैंने मंत्री जी से कहा है न कि विचार करके जवाब दीजिएगा।

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the report is supposed to be submitted by August, 2003. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this organisation has asked for extension of time? If it has asked for extension of time, would the hon. Minister tell us whether all the controversial, non-transparent and partisan decisions taken by the DDA would be reviewed?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: The position about the report is that we have already received the draft. We have studied it. There is no question of any extension beyond August this year. Once the report comes — we also have our own ideas — all the recommendations will be looked into thoroughly and with the intention of increasing efficiency and eliminating corruption, all actions will be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Exploitation of children

†*106. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of innocent children are being used for begging;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a number of children are compelled to beg at the age when they should be getting education; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for helping such children to get rid of such exploitation, giving details of children rehabilitated in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that a large number of children , for whom education should be a priority, are engaged in the practice of begging.

(c) Beggary, including begging by children is sought to be prevented through enactment of legislation by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a Central Act, also provides for penal action against persons employing or using children for the purposes of beggary. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment also implements a Central Scheme called 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children'. The Programme provides shelter, nutrition, health care, education and recreation facilities to street children and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation including forced beggary. The number of children covered under the Programme during 2001-02 and 2002-03 was 24,472 and 37,195 respectively.

Private Partnership in drinking water sector

*107. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five global corporates are ready to tap over $2000 million market of drinking water in the country;

(b) whether Government have encouraged the private partnership in the drinking water sector; and

(c) whether it is a fact that if privatisation of drinking water is allowed, the urban dwellers would have to pay at least ten times more for drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Urban water supply is a State subject. The global corporates are operating or competing for bids through State Governments directly.